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Letter dated 14 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement released on 13 August 2015 by a spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the United States and south Korea joint military exercise, the so-called "Ulji Freedom Guardian", to be conducted against the DPRK (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued on 13 August 2015 by a spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, 13 August — A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK released a statement on Thursday, 13 August 2015 in connection with the fact that the US announced it would stage, together with south Korean puppet forces, aggressive Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military drills targeting the DPRK from 17 August.

Accusing the US of again trying to cover up the aggressive nature and danger of the drills by describing them as "annual and defensive" ones, the statement read:

In actuality, the US is plugging the DPRK into an arms race through ceaseless war drills and arms build-up in a sinister bid to throw hurdles in its efforts to develop its economy and improve its people's standard of living and force them to live in a touch-and-go situation, and thus seek an opportunity for a pre-emptive attack upon it.

The US projected war rehearsal clearly proves that the US is the arch-criminal sparking off a vicious cycle of escalating confrontation and tension and creating the danger of a war on the Korean Peninsula.

The DPRK is no longer what it used to be in the 1950s. It has strong military muscle to cope with any mode of war desired by the US.

The US had better know that its aggressive and provocative large-scale war drills are no longer issues confined to the DPRK-US relations and the relations between the north and the south of Korea, but have become an international issue, as the drills harass peace and security in North-east Asia and other parts of Asia and the world.

If the US persistently opts for military confrontation despite the repeated warnings of the DPRK and unanimous censure by the international community, it will be held wholly accountable for all the ensuing consequences.

We will not wait indefinitely for the switch of the US Korea policy while having our sovereignty and security being threatened, but take all steps necessary to deter the US nuclear provocation.